



General Assembly

January Session, 2007

Committee Bill No. 263

LCO No. 5456

05456SB00263PH_

Referred to Committee on Public Health

Introduced by:
(PH)

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LOAN FORGIVENESS PROGRAM FOR
HISTORICALLY UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS PURSUING
CAREERS IN THE HEALTH PROFESSION.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2007*) (a) The Commissioner of
2 Public Health, in consultation with the Board of Governors of Higher
3 Education, shall establish a program for the forgiveness of loans
4 provided by the state to students of racial or ethnic minority groups
5 who are pursuing a degree in a health-related field. The loans shall be
6 forgiven if the student remains in a health profession in Connecticut
7 for five years. Participants in the loan forgiveness program shall have
8 loans that qualify for forgiveness under the program forgiven based
9 upon the following schedule: (1) Ten per cent forgiveness of the total
10 amount borrowed and qualified for under the program upon the
11 completion of one year's service pursuant to the program; (2) twenty-
12 five per cent forgiveness of the total borrowed and qualified for under
13 the program upon the completion of two years' service pursuant to the
14 program; (3) forty-five per cent forgiveness of the total amount
15 borrowed and qualified for under the program upon the completion of
16 three years' service pursuant to the program; (4) seventy per cent

17 forgiveness of the total amount borrowed and qualified for under the
 18 program upon the completion of four years' service pursuant to the
 19 program; and (5) one hundred per cent forgiveness of the total amount
 20 borrowed and qualified for under the program upon the completion of
 21 five years' service pursuant to the program. Annually, the Department
 22 of Public Health shall permit not more than fifteen students to
 23 participate in the program. The Commissioner of Public Health, in
 24 consultation with the Board of Governors of Higher Education, shall
 25 adopt regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of
 26 the general statutes, to establish procedures to administer the program.

27 (b) The Department of Public Health, in consultation with the
 28 Department of Higher Education, shall advertise the loan forgiveness
 29 program established under this section in such manner as the
 30 Department of Public Health determines will most effectively attract a
 31 greater number of racial and ethnic minorities to pursue a degree in a
 32 health-related field.

33 (c) Annually, the state shall appropriate an amount for purposes of
 34 this program that is at least equal to the amount of federal funds the
 35 state receives for purposes of such a program.

36 Sec. 2. (*Effective July 1, 2007*) The sum of ____ dollars is appropriated
 37 to the Department of Public Health, from the General Fund, for the
 38 fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, for the loan forgiveness program
 39 authorized under section 1 of this act.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2007</i>	New section

Statement of Purpose:

To increase financial assistance for underrepresented students pursuing careers in the health profession.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: SEN. HARP, 10th Dist.

S.B. 263